

Montlake Community Center Expansion Project

Public Meeting #2

November 29, 2004

David Goldberg made introductory statements, set the agenda, and moderated the discussion.

Don Carlson presented the latest schematic plans and solicited comments.

Comments and discussion:

Activity spaces should be seen as flexible over the long term, no matter how they are assigned a use now.

For long term flexibility, it was suggested that any activity room be plumbed for water and sewer.

How do you respond to the initial survey that showed an exercise room as the highest priority?

Public areas were seen as a plus, allowing informal interaction among the patrons and enhancing the feeling of community.

Storage space must be a net gain when everything's finished, per program standards.

It was explained that to avoid expenses for code upgrades that would negatively impact the budget for new construction, and fall under city requirements for "substantial alteration," the Tudor's improvements needed to be primarily cosmetic. This was generally acknowledged.

The Tudor building is seen as currently underutilized. It's rental fee, and general atmosphere, is sub-par, and could be greatly enhanced by improvements in lighting and finishes. A/V capability would also be nice. Some kind of auxiliary catering function is desired - possibly by expanding the exist kitchen into the "caretaker" area immediately behind it.

General philosophy of making the Tudor a "jewel" or centerpiece of the park was favorably received.

Enhancing the space between the Tudor and the Gym buildings to create an outdoor space/courtyard was endorsed.

A larger concern was expressed that community centers were taking on a "sports complex" orientation, when what is preferred is more park-like. Person that made comment was assured that a fitness room was not intended to be, nor would be it be, used by serious weightlifters, trainers, etc. Like Seattle Prep football team members.

Submitted by Steve Nordlund, 12/8/04